

Newburgh News of Note

VOL. VIII ISSUE IV

FALL 2006

A. B. Moore, Jr. Sworn In as District III Representative



When the District III Council seat was vacated by Councilman Bob Seibert's move from the town corporate limits, the Democrat Precinct Committee of the Town of Newburgh met in caucus and voted to appoint A. B. (Alonzo) Moore, Jr. to that position. Mr. Moore was sworn in by Clerk-Treasurer Becky Gentry at the August 23, 2006 Town Council meeting. Alonzo was born and raised in Newburgh. He graduated from the Jefferson Street School and Newburgh High School. He has been married to his wife, Shirley, for thirteen years. Alonzo has served on the Newburgh Parks Board for

four years and is currently the Ohio 22 Democrat Precinct Committee Chair. Alonzo served as past president of the Newburgh Jaycees and as regional vice president of the Jaycees. The Council appointed Mr. Moore to serve as Park Commissioner, as Air Board Authority Liaison, and on the Construction Standards Committee. We look forward to Alonzo's continued service to the community.

New Employees in the Sewer Department

Shawn Mundy began work last week as the Newburgh Sewer Office Manager. She comes to the town with experience in finance and human resources. LuAnn Campagna also recently joined the department as a full time employee. The Sewer Office is located at the Newburgh Town Hall, 23 W. Jennings Street in the old Carnegie portion of the building.

Sewer Office Manager Shawn Mundy (far right) goes over the finances of the Sewer Department with LuAnn Campagna.



In the Collection System Operations and Maintenance division at the Wastewater Treatment Facility located on Vanada Road, two new operators were recently added to our ever-growing system: Bryan Bodkin and Paul Rohrscheib.

Protecting our Drinking Water

This fall, help Newburgh residents protect our drinking water supply by educating yourself about wellhead protection. Did you know that our drinking water comes from groundwater? You can help protect this groundwater by doing the simple things outlined here to reduce groundwater contamination in our local aquifer.

Wellhead protection is a process of identifying and protecting the area of land near the drinking water wells (the "wellhead") from potential hazards. Contamination in the wellhead area could affect *our* water supply years into the future.

In 1999, Newburgh began working with a group of community volunteers and leaders to develop a plan to protect Newburgh's groundwater drinking water supply from contamination. This effort, called "Wellhead Protection," satisfies criteria established by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and has been directed by a group of community stakeholders and company officials. The Newburgh wellhead protection plan was approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management in August 2003. Since that time, the local planning team has been working to educate the public about wellhead protection.

Here are some ways you can help protect the aquifer and our drinking water from contamination:

Limit your use of chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, and other hazardous products. While planting your garden and/or landscaping next spring, always follow the label directions. Use the least toxic product or method available for lawn, garden, and household pest and weed control. Also minimize the use of de-icers.

If you own property with a septic system, make sure it is inspected and serviced every three years. Avoid pouring down the drain or toilet products that will harm your septic system such as diapers, coffee grounds, or hazardous chemicals.

Plug abandoned wells on your property. These old wells provide a direct channel for surface contaminants to reach ground water supplies without first being filtered by the soil. Contact the IDNR-Division of Water toll-free at 1-877-928-3755 for information on how to plug abandoned wells.

Recycle leftover hazardous products. *Never pour these chemicals onto the ground or into storm drains*, because they can contaminate the water supply. Examples of hazardous products include used motor oil, used antifreeze, batteries, house paint, electronics, and insecticides. These leftover chemicals and hazardous products can be recycled at the Household Hazardous Waste Day sponsored by the Warrick County Solid Waste Management District and Alcoa Warrick Operations.

For more information about wellhead protection, visit these websites: Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service <http://www.ecn.purdue.edu/SafeWater/wellhead/> and the

Indiana Department of Environmental Management <http://www.in.gov/idem/programs/water/swp/whpp/index.html>

Article information provided by Jody Woods, Indiana America Water Quality Specialist as well as Town Council President Bill Kavanaugh and Town Manager Cynthia E. Burger who serve on the Wellhead Protection Committee.

Veterans Park Dedication to be held November 11

On 11/11 at 11 AM, the newly designated Veterans Park will be dedicated by the Newburgh Town Council with participation by the American Legion Kapperman Post # 44. Though designs for the monument are still in the initial stages, the park is to be dedicated as a passive park in honor of all veterans, past, present, and future, from all branches of the military. The Town looks forward to input and participation in this community endeavor.

Shari Sherman, Veteran Monument Committee Chair

Town Hall Dedication and Open House

Citizens and friends of Newburgh joined in the celebration Sunday, October 8, as the Town Council and the Newburgh Building Corporation dedicated the newly renovated seat of government of the Town of Newburgh and officially opened the doors for conducting the business of the town. After over a decade in the planning stages and nine months in the actual construction phase, visitors were awed by the restoration and transformation of the Carnegie Library building and the upper level of the 1984 addition of the Newburgh Library into government offices and council and commission meeting spaces. Anne Rust Aurand, who chaired the committee, stated at the dedication that the job of the Newburgh Building Corporation (NBC) is only fifty percent complete. The remainder of their task is to complete the restoration of the old town hall, the former Cumberland Presbyterian Church, at 200 State Street which served as the seat

of government for over forty years. The Town anticipates funding from a Community Focus Fund Grant, which would allow construction to begin on that building in February 2007.



NBC Board members: Steve Franke, Mae Mason, and Randy Wheeler.



Citizens enjoy the dedication festivities.



Park Board President Lou Dennis congratulates Councilperson and Town Hall Committee Chair Anne Rust Aurand and Mae Mason, Newburgh Building Corporation member and former Newburgh Town Manager.



Lifelong Newburgh resident Nellie Jane Rust and Ellen, her daughter from Indianapolis, are thrilled with the new town hall. Nellie Jane's daughter Anne serves on the Town Council and as committee chair.

PD K9 Unit Program Reborn

It has been over four years since the Newburgh Police Department's K9 Unit was retired. Chief Brett Sprinkle believes restoring the program would be an asset to his department and the community. His plan is to reinitiate the program and fund and maintain it through donations, not taxpayers' dollars. K9 units are of great value in situations when life and/or property are in jeopardy, as well as in the search for missing persons or articles. The K9 is cross trained to detect narcotics and is trained to bite on command. There is rigorous training not only for the canine but also for the officer charged with its care. The German Shepherd K9s are bred in Germany specifically for the sensitivities necessary for these tasks. Chief Sprinkle hopes to have the donations for the purchase and the maintenance of the K9 unit in place next year.

Deanna Malcolm, Administrative Assistant

Eagle Scout Project Completed

Blake Thieman, member of Boy Scout Troop # 330, recently completed the refurbishment of the horseshoe pits and the accompanying picnic tables at the old Lock & Dam site park just down the hill from the Lockmasters' buildings. With the help of other volunteers, Blake completed the project and donated the extra funds he had collected to the Parks Board.



Scouts refurbish the horseshoe pits at the old Lock & Dam park.

Newburgh Officials

TOWN COUNCIL

President William Kavanaugh District I
853.3050

Ken Hughes District II 858.5028

A. B. Moore, Jr. District III 490.0857

Anne Rust Aurand District IV 853.7538

Shari Sherman Council at Large 853.5447

Becky Gentry Clerk-Treasurer 853.7111

ADMINISTRATION

Town Manager Cynthia E. Burger 853.3578

Zoning Administrator Frank Hijuelos 853.2728

SEWER DEPARTMENT

Business Office 853.7496

Office Manager Shawn Mundy

WWTF Superintendent Leon Key

STREET DEPARTMENT

Superintendent John Fischer 853.6648

POLICE

Emergency only 911 Information 853.1723

FIRE

Emergency only 911 Information 853.7651

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT/MAIN STREET

Historic Newburgh, Inc 853.2815

COUNCIL CONTINUES REVIEW OF FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATION AND FUNDING

The Newburgh Town Council continues to review options for funding and operation of the Newburgh Fire Department. The Town currently contracts with the Newburgh Volunteer Firefighters Association, Inc. to provide fire protection to the citizens of the Town of Newburgh. Funding for the operation is by property taxes collected from property in Town and a small amount paid by Ohio Township for service provided to it outside the Town limits. Those monies are deposited into the General Fund and the bills paid from that fund. The proposed budget for the department in 2007 is \$115,950, up from the \$111,750 budgeted in 2006.

Generally, there are four options open to the Council on how to provide fire protection to the citizens in Town: operate the department as it now does; abandon the department and allow the Township to provide the service; create a fire territory and allow it to provide the service; or allow a fire district to be created and let it provide the service.

Last winter, a proposal to create a fire district was rejected by the Town Council because the proposed district budget would double the property taxes in the Town. Council also expressed concern that control of the department and its budget would be in the hands of a board appointed by the county, not the elected officials of the Town.

A fire territory would also raise property taxes in the Town for fire service and, like a fire district, would be operated by an appointed board. That board, however, would be appointed by the creators of the territory, not the county.

Allowing the Township to take over the job of firefighting may also raise property taxes in Town. Currently, the Township fire service rate and fire debt service rate do not apply to property in Newburgh since Newburgh provides fire protection to its citizens. If the Town "got out of the business," then the township tax rate for that service would be imposed on the property in Town to pay for the service. The Newburgh Fire Department would cease to exist, and the Township Trustee would have operational control of the entity that actually fights the fires in Town.

As is evident from this review, the issue of how best to provide fire protection is not simple and the impact on taxpayers may be substantial depending on what path is chosen. The current state of upheaval at the state level on how to "fix" property tax levels that are perceived to be out of hand makes it even more difficult to make a choice.

The General Assembly is due to convene in a few months. Property tax "reform" and exactly how local governments, like Newburgh, will be allowed to raise money to fund the services their people need, appear to be high on the legislative agenda.

Until Indianapolis tells us how it is going to allow us to fund our operations, making changes in the funding mechanism for those operations may be imprudent.

Town Council

IHOP to Close for the Winter

Indian Hill Overlook Park will close, as is customary, for the winter. It will close on November 1 and re-open March 15, 2007. It is anticipated that once the Rivertown Trail is completed to the Overlook destination, the park will remain open year round.

Historic Preservation Guidelines have been adopted and will be distributed to all owners of property listed as historic sites. The HPC will hold an informational open house at Town Hall on Sunday, November 12 at 1:30 PM.

***Newburgh News of Note* Volume VIII, Issue IV** is a quarterly publication of the Town of Newburgh. It is delivered to citizens of the town to provide information for greater access and input on the operation of governmental services.
Prepared by Cynthia E. Burger, Town Manager

Town of Newburgh
P.O. Box 6
Newburgh, IN 47629

PRE-SORTED

STANDARD

U.S. Postage
PAID

Newburgh, Indiana
PERMIT NO. 44

Warrick County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Team

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires each county, including incorporated communities, to have a current mitigation plan in order to be eligible for federal disaster funds. This is a federal unfunded mandate. Through the Boundary Rivers Project, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security received a grant to fund this planning project. The Quad County Development Commission is facilitating the process. The Polis Center was hired to develop the modeling tool and a team was formed to develop a workable plan for the county. Participation time in the research and planning process by team members counts as the match from the county in lieu of any actual dollar expenditure. The team has been meeting since July reviewing historical hazards studies, assessing critical facilities data, and identifying hazard parameters for modeling. The team is holding a public meeting Thursday, November 9 at 5:00 PM at the Warrick County School Corporation Administrative Building, 300 E. Gum in Boonville. The Polis Center members will present a modeling update, and state geologist John Hill will give an earthquake risk assessment for this area based upon actual modeling information. Town Manager Cynthia E. Burger serves on the planning team.

Managing Storm Water

With the most recent rains, the entire Ohio Valley has been deluged with rains above the 100 and 200-year levels. The Storm Water Management Board and the Town Council are aggressively addressing the issue by meeting with property owners and formulating a comprehensive plan of action. Tackling the problem is a major priority for the SWM Board and the Council.